

# *IOWA Bird Life*



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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CEDAR WAXWING

Photo by Robert DeLong

## BERRIES FOR THE BIRDS

MRS. W. C. DELONG

Box 278

SHENANDOAH, IOWA

The backyard had no trees or shrubs when our home was built in the new Hillcrest Addition to Shenandoah in 1958. The lot had originally been a cornfield. Our home was the first one to be built on the new street, Johnson Drive. The lot bordering ours on the west, however, had at one time been a large country home, now the oldest home in Shenandoah. The beautiful spacious lawn with its large pine, hackberry and fruit trees, and many low shrubs creates a rendezvous for birds.

In order to get birds to come into our yard, we planted shrubs called "Berries for the Birds." How would you like to see over one hundred Cedar Waxwings in your yard at one time on a cold winter day in February, feasting on highbush cranberries, *Viburnum americana*? This shrub starts to bear fruit in a few years. The red berries are not palatable until late winter and few birds care for them. In February and March waxwings come in droves and devour the berries. They are at first very wasteful, choosing only the best and knocking the rest on the ground. After the berries are all gone from the branches, I have seen the waxwings drop to the ground and search for every berry hidden among the brown leaves below the shrubs. This winter there has been a Bohemian Waxwing among the Cedar Waxwings.

In March, 1966, a snowstorm caught a flock of migrating Robins unawares, and they competed with the waxwings for the cranberries. However, as soon as other food was available, the Robins lost interest in the cranberries.

Another shrub attractive to birds is the *Lonicera mackii* honeysuckle, a late bearing variety. We planted five of these shrubs to border the large country estate to the west. Some years apples cling to two apple trees, one a crab and the other the northwestern greening.



This fall there was an enormous crop of red berries on the honeysuckles. Cedar Waxwings made a feast on these berries in November. It was not difficult to catch them in a net between the apple trees and the honeysuckle shrubs. In a short time I had twenty-four to band. They literally stuff themselves with the berries, some with so many in their beaks, there is not room for one more. It is interesting to study their plumage, some having much red wax on their wings, others having none at all or perhaps one or two red barbs, a few having some on the tail.

Waxwings are not the only birds that are attracted to this honeysuckle. On January 24, 1966, I saw a strange bird probing among the brown leaves at the base of the honeysuckle shrub, where the waxwings had thrown many on the ground. My binoculars revealed this bird to be the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. My suspicions were confirmed when I saw him ascend the trunk and reach for a dried berry still clinging to a branch.

As I was watching him, I was much surprised to get three Purple Finches in my glasses. I have discovered that they like these berries too, for they spend much time probing among the dead leaves below. In the book *American Wildlife and Plants* by Zim, honeysuckle is listed as a fruit attractive to Purple Finches.

Later the Purple Finches found my feeding shelf, and I had finches helping themselves to sunflower seeds. Each succeeding week the flock increased as they brought with them new individuals. It takes an enormous amount of sunflower seeds to feed such a number! Many of my friends came and sat with me at the breakfast table and watched the parade of Purple Finches come and go. All agreed that at times when the sun shone brightly on them, the males did indeed have a purple glow.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker found the suet at the feeder and he, too, became a regular boarder; however, it was the *Lonicera mackii* honeysuckle that first brought these two species to my yard.

This winter, 1966, some of the berries of the highbush cranberry have become fermented as the weather has been so mild. One day a beautiful Cedar Waxwing with much red on his wing was sitting in the highbush cranberry shrub, slightly intoxicated. He offered no resistance when I picked him up and brought him into the house. I kept him in a carrying cage until he showed signs of activity. I banded him and returned him to the outside. In the afternoon of the next day I found him again sitting on the ground near the bushes drunk — very drunk. This time it took longer to revive him, but when he did show signs of normal behavior, I put him on the branch of the pin oak. What did he do? In ten minutes he was back again eating cranberries. Now I knew he was an alcoholic!

The arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*, is another shrub one should plant if interested in attracting birds to one's back yard. The last week in July and the first week in August, numerous birds come to the arrowwood to eat the blue berries. The Eastern Kingbird is one that is very fond of the blue berries. If you have never been able to band kingbirds, plant the arrowwood shrubs. I have ten of these to the north and behind the arrowwood, ten wayfaring trees, *Viburnum lantana*, both shrubs attractive to summer birds such as Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Robins, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue Jays, Eastern Kingbirds — even the Red-headed Woodpecker.

And if you too would like a bird sanctuary in your own back yard, then plant shrubs called "Berries for the Birds."

44TH ANNUAL IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS'  
UNION CONVENTION  
MAY 13, 14, 15, 1966

DR. MYRLE M. BURK  
R.R. #2  
WATERLOO, IOWA

Friday evening, May 13, 1966, the birds of the Natural History Museum, Macbride Hall, University of Iowa, long since quietly waiting, stared, glassy-eyed, as their realm was invaded. Bird watchers, feeding on delicious cookies and punch, closely peered at them, discussed their coloring, their plumage, leg color, size, and other details. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union had come to Iowa City for their 44th Annual Convention, May 13, 14 and 15, 1966. This was the informal reception where old friends were greeted and new friends were made. Hosts were the Audubon Naturalists' Society of Cedar Rapids.

**SATURDAY MORNING**

Mrs. Darrel Hanna, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M., May 14. At the opening of the convention she presented M. L. Huit, Dean of Student Affairs, University of Iowa. He noted that with our coming the sun was shining after days of cloudiness. Considering it a real privilege to have the Iowa Ornithologists' Union at the University, all would be done to make our stay a pleasant one. Dr. Robert Vane, President of the Union, in response, expressed our appreciation for the warm welcome given by Dr. Huit, especially since this is the first meeting of the Union at the University. Dr. Vane thanked the members for their willingness to cooperate in the advance registration with 117 coming by mail. He also announced that a group photograph of the I.O.U. members will be made at 3:30 P.M. on the steps of the Iowa House. He invited them to visit the book display arranged by Peter C. Petersen, Jr.

**Introduction to the Iowa City Area — F. W. Kent, Iowa City**

Mrs. Hanna then presented Fred Kent to whom we are indebted for much time and effort given to make our stay convenient and comfortable. He described the topography of the Iowa City area and its relation to birding. The Iowa River, flowing through the hills of Amana, enters a broad, flat valley or flood plain. In 1949 the Army Engineers began the building of Coralville Dam, forming a large reservoir; this was placed in operation in 1958. The water areas of the valley have been changed for much land was flooded and habitats for birds have not been well developed. Another dam forms a reservoir of two forks in the Lake Macbride State Park; the area is unpredictable for birding, for the marsh habitat is not well developed. The Western area includes a large shallow lake known as Swan Lake; it is the property of the Iowa Conservation Commission. Swan Lake has undergone a change from a dry cycle to a wet cycle. After the dry cycle sufficient water to develop a lush growth of plant life occurred. This was an invitation for muskrats which moved in in such numbers that 150 houses were built. Such large numbers occurred that they ate the plants; now all is water. Many species of ducks, four species of geese and shore birds have stopped here. When the water is lower in the reservoir, Golden Plover, Caspian Tern, Sanderlings, Turnstones and Dowitchers come. South of Iowa City lies Conesville Marsh, the Iowa Conservation Commission bought the area at the convergence of the Cedar River and the Iowa River, where marsh birds are common.

**Values of a Bluebird Trail — Mrs. Wayne Black, Pleasantville, Iowa**

Many hours were spent setting up the Bluebird Trail and more hours were spent acquiring the data. The houses were very inexpensively built from slabs acquired at a sawmill. The cover was nailed on rather than hinged; since a claw hammer was necessary to open the top, vandalism was discouraged. The sixty houses were built by boys of a Sunday School Class. The nest boxes were placed near farmlands. No farmer refused permission. No roadside spraying was done during 1965. Records were kept on each box; 54 were occupied by Bluebirds; of these 33 were successful. Chickadees and House Wrens used some houses; cowbirds did some parasitizing; a Hairy Woodpecker punctured the eggs of two nests.

**Pesticides and Wild Birds — Wayne Paton, Iowa City**

(Mr. Paton substituted for Dr. Robert L. Morris, Assistant Director, State Hygienic Laboratories, Iowa City, Iowa.)

Pesticides in some form have been used for a long time, e. g. Paris green and Bordeaux mixture. After the Second World War DDT came into wide use; it destroyed disease-carrying insects and its use resulted in increased crop production. The newer pesticides fall into two chemical groupings: one, the chlorinated hydrocarbons include DDT, heptachlor, aldrin, and endrin. Their greatest factor is a very stable molecule which shows affinity for fatty substances. They have a moderately high toxicity. The second group, the organic phosphates, include parathion, phosdrin and diazinon. All of these may cause illness by poisoning.

From studies there is conclusive evidence that Robins are killed by DDT. In New Hampshire, 70% of the Robins have been killed in some areas. Game birds are also affected. In California, pheasants were poisoned by eating treated seed rice. Ducks, egrets, and grebes have died from poisoning by pesticides. Pesticides may be involved in the decline in numbers of the Bald Eagle although no direct evidence has been obtained.

**Feathers in the Paint Pot — Joseph and Dorothy Brown, Des Moines, Iowa**

The earliest self-portrait of a bird is the fossil Archeopteryx. Cro-Magnon man failed to show interest in birds, judging by the paintings in the caves of France and Spain; however the petroglyphs of early man in America include the firebird. Egyptians before Christ used birds as symbols on money. The Romans used the eagle on their money. The owl was used as a mascot on the shields of the Greek soldiers. The dove became symbolic to the Christians and was used in painting and architecture. During the Middle Ages, falconry was the popular means of hunting. The nobility often were depicted in paintings carrying their falcons.

In America ornithologists began painting birds to show their characteristics. One of the earliest was Alexander Wilson. He collected specimens and in painting carefully delineated their plumage and form. His work is notable although he had no training in painting.

John Audubon, a contemporary of Wilson, was very sophisticated in his sense of design. No artist since has successfully emulated him. Later artists are Menaboni, talented in his own right, Louis Fuertes with uncanny skill in draftsmanship, Francis Lee Jaques, who uses a black and white technique with a keen sense of composition, Rex Brashear, Robert Bruce Harsfall, and Allan Brooks to mention a few.

The use of illustration in field guide books for the identification of birds became a practical use for paintings of birds. Chester A. Reed's **Guide to Land Birds** and **Guide to Water Birds** were the first handy guides for the student. They have been in use fifty years and are still obtainable. Frank



M. Chapman's **Guide to the Birds of North America** was an unusual and outstanding book. One of the latest is Roger Tory Peterson's **Guides**. Illustrated by Peterson, outstanding points of birds of identification are marked. It has had a phenomenal success and is popular with bird students.

**Recoveries of Blue Jays Banded in Iowa — Mrs. John Lueshen, Wisner, Nebr.**

Recoveries of Blue Jays were made near Wisner, Nebraska, 65 miles southwest of Sioux City. With cooperation from the Fish and Wildlife Service and her own records, Mrs. Lueshen found that most of the birds banded remained in the state, some in the same 10' grid. Greatest distances migrated were to Saskatchewan and Louisiana. All migrations were in a nearly north-south direction, usually within one hundred miles.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

**Breeding Biology of the Parasitic Black-headed Duck —  
Dr. Milton Weller, Dept. of Zoology, Iowa State University, Ames**

During the academic year, 1964-65, Dr. Milton Weller received a National Science Foundation Grant to study the little-known Black-headed Duck (*Heteronetta atricapilla*) of South America. This bird is found in Paraguay, southwestern Brazil and northern Argentina, with Argentina proving to be the best place to work. He was aided in discovering the distribution pattern of the duck by local ornithologists. In the Buenos Aires Province the land is flat and only a few feet above sea level, which results in considerable marshy land. The habitat of the Black-headed Duck is a marsh with areas of tule and cutgrass interspersed in open water one to three feet in depth. The area of such marshes may vary from 200 to 1000 acres. During the late summer and early winter most of these areas dry up. The studies were made during the wet period.

A nest of the Black-headed Duck has never been found; neither does it rear its young. It lays its eggs in the nests of other species of duck, in the nests of the ibis, the coot, and other birds. It is both a dabbling and a diving duck; its classification is a taxonomic mystery. Its courtship behavior may be important in solving these relationships. It inflates its throat like the Ruddy Duck; it raises its head like the dabbling ducks. Lowering of the head is accompanied by a call which is a "grunt". It may be a link between the dabbling and the diving ducks. Although she is very shy, the hen lays her eggs in the nests of all sorts of hosts. The four species of coots were parasitized. A large percentage of coots' nests found contained one or more eggs of the Black-headed Duck. The White Ibis lives in colonies; its eggs are of robin's-egg blue; but sixty per cent of the nests are successfully parasitized by this duck. Its young are fed by regurgitation; the duckling seeks its own food. The Black-necked Swan and the Corcorba Swan were both parasitized. Its eggs were not found in the nests of the egret or the Roseate Spoonbill, although it has been reported in the latter's nests. The Brown Pintail and the Rosybill are the two most numerous ducks. Eight of ten nests of the Rosybill were parasitized.

In order to learn how the ducklings feed and thrive after hatching, eggs were taken and hatched under a hen. Ducklings, in confinement, lived only a short time; they were constantly trying to escape from the pen. It was discovered that they could not be imprinted to follow a domestic parent; they do not have the normal following trait. They leave the nests of the foster parents within two days and rear themselves, being the most precocial of birds. The Black-headed Duck is a very unique species, the only completely parasitic duck and the only one of its kind. Dr. Weller showed fine pictures of the birds studied and the nests of various species containing the eggs of the Black-headed Duck.

**Bird Life of Southern Asia — Dr. Martin L. Grant,  
Dept. of Biology, State College of Iowa, Cedar Falls**

During the years 1963-65, Dr. Martin L. Grant held a Fulbright Exchange professorship teaching botany in the University of Shiraz, Iran. He collected specimens of plants, animals and birds in all parts of that country. In Iran trees grow on the mountain foothills; they include oaks, cypress, the wild pomgranate, acacia. On the prairie steppes of the northeast thirty species of wild tulip grow. Here the Dutch obtained the stock from which they developed the cultivated tulip. The semi-desert consists of bare spaces between bushes of many species of *Astragalus*, other legumes, *Ephedra*, and poppies. When not cultivated, poppies grow as a weed. The desert area was dry; it was said that it had not rained for four years. Then the rains came and Dr. Grant's car was stuck for thirty-six hours. Twenty-five men moved it out of the mud. The sand is swept by winds, forming dunes. Here too a car may be stalled. In a desert-like area sheep were observed grazing, although from a distance no forage was visible. Upon closer observation, prostrate plants of several genera were found growing.

Black-headed Gulls were seen along the Caspian Sea. Other birds seen were the Lesser White-fronted Goose, the Common Stork, the Bearded Vulture, which belongs to the family of Eagles and Hawks, the Griffin Vulture with a wing-spread of eight feet, six kinds of Eagles including the Lesser Spotted Eagle, and the Black Kites, which are scavengers. In the popular sport of falconry, the Peregrine Falcon is most often used. Other species seen were the Lapwing, which is very similar to our Killdeer, and the Sand Grouse, which represents a family not found in the New World.

Reptiles included the Desert Tortoise and many kinds of lizards, numbering 100 species. Animals were quite unlike those of the Western Hemisphere, such as the Hedgehog, the Porcupine, the Hyena, the Water Buffalo, Camels and the Wild Horse. Dr. Grant illustrated his talk with many pictures.

**Ross' Goose in the Central and Mississippi Flyways  
David Trauger, Iowa State University, Ames**

The rare Ross' Goose has been limited in its distribution in the United States to a winter range in the valleys of California. In migration via the Pacific Flyway they fly from California to Oregon, then crossing the mountains into Montana and Idaho on their way northward. It is the smallest of the geese, smaller than the Lesser Snow and a little larger than a Mallard. It differs from the Snow Goose by its small bill with no black "lips". The literature shows that this goose has been seen farther east in the Central and Mississippi Flyways. Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri, reported a Ross' Goose shot by a hunter; the Canadian Wildlife Service recovered four banded in the Central Flyway; in the Mississippi Flyway, twenty-one records have been made. Records from Iowa were made since 1945, with one east of Clinton, one at Goose Lake near Jefferson in Greene County, and one at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Kossuth County. At Union Slough the goose was seen five times by the manager. Observations have increased in the last six years; west of the Mississippi, the population has increased spectacularly from 6,000 to 31,880 during the years 1955-1965. The Ross' Goose nests in the Arctic; evidently there has been a migratory shift eastward. It is recommended that the Ross' Goose be added to the Iowa bird list.

**Winter Birding — Dr. Robert Vane, Cedar Rapids**

By means of excellent pictures taken at his home or on Sunday afternoon on trips by car, Dr. Vane portrayed the excitement of birding in the winter when the days may be frosty or the temperatures low, sometimes



minus 30 degrees F., which adds zest to the adventure.

The birds photographed are listed (with notes): Mallards, in Coralville area; Ring-necked, Redhead and Pintail — early migratory ducks at Swan Lake, March 1; Common Golden-eye; Hooded Merganser; Common Snipe at a pool of water from a drainage tile, temperature, 12 degrees F; Mourning Doves, sitting in a roadside ditch out of the wind — photographed from the car; Long-eared Owls; Short-eared Owls — field in Iowa River Valley; Saw-whet Owls on County Road E; Belted Kingfisher; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Blue Jay; Cedar Waxwings eating frozen apples hanging from a tree; Evening Grosbeaks, photographed from the kitchen window — they were attracted by salt and feed; Purple Finches — the male gets his rosy red plumage within eighteen months; Red Crossbills in a cemetery east of Cedar Rapids; Slate-colored Junco; Snow Buntings — rusty colored, not black and white, ordinarily along shore of beach or lake.

#### SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 14

The annual banquet was held in the Hawkeye Room. For the lovely centerpiece and other appointments we thank the members of the Audubon Naturalists Society of Cedar Rapids.

After the delicious dinner, Stephen M. Pattee, President of the host society presented Dr. Robert Vane. He introduced Dr. Walter Breckenridge, Director of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

The film "Sand Country Wildlife", photographed and presented by Dr. Breckenridge, depicted the animal and plant life of the sandy area north of Minneapolis and St. Paul. This large area, included in three counties, was formed by the deposit of sand by the Mississippi River as its channel was diverted by the glacial ice 10,000 or more years ago. The winds mound the sands into dunes, the temperature of the sand in summer becomes uncomfortably high. Gramma grasses, Big Blue Stem, and Needle Grass grow here. Insects and spiders adapt their habits to this environment. Lizards and snakes burrow into cooler sands. Even the Red Fox rears her pups here. The pictures and descriptions by Dr. Breckenridge were an invitation to visit this unusual land.

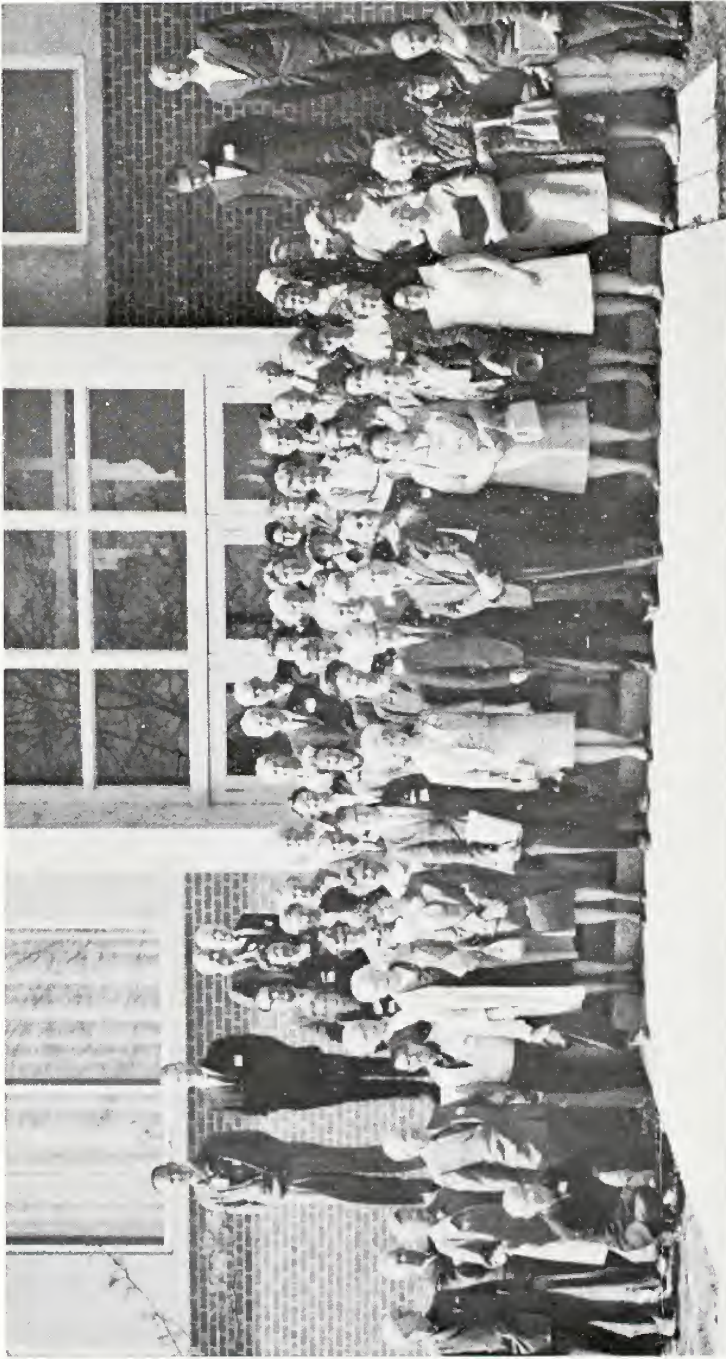
#### BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, President Vane called the business meeting of the convention to order. The secretary-treasurer, Myrle M. Burk, read the membership report and the financial report of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union for the year 1965-66. Moved by Darrell Hanna that the report be accepted; seconded by Albert Berkowitz. Motion carried.

Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, reported that he was gratified by the fine articles contributed by members. He asked for volunteers to write book reviews. The late publication of the March issue was due to errors made in preparing the table of the Christmas Bird Counts, for it was redone several times until a correct copy was obtained. He stated that the normal deadline for articles is the 10th of the month preceding publication; bird notes to Woodward Brown are due the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Dr. Vane reported that since the passing of Dr. Ennis, there had been no librarian for more than a year. Meanwhile the library has been placed under the care of Dr. Hendriks, Professor of Geology. The library will be moved from Cornell this year. Dr. Vane also reported the following Life Memberships: Dr. Warren Keck, Naperville, Illinois; Mrs. Lillian Stoner, Albany, N. Y.; and Mrs. Ross C. King, Clinton, Iowa.

At the meeting of the Executive Council in Des Moines last September,



MEMBERS AT IOWA CITY CONVENTION





INFORMAL VIEWS AT IOWA CITY  
Photos by F. W. Kent



an informational promotional folder was planned. Albert Berkowitz, aided by Woodward Brown and Peter C. Petersen, Jr., organized the material for the folder. It has been printed and copies will be placed in the hands of the officers for distribution. The aid of local societies was also suggested for distribution of the folders. The Union is indebted to Albert Berkowitz for the donation of the paper for the folders.

Dr. Vane appointed the following committees:

Resolutions — Mrs. J. B. Osher, Estherville; Mrs. Martin Grant, Cedar Falls, and Woodward Brown, Des Moines.

Nominations — Mrs. Helen Barrett, Chr., Sioux City; John Paul Moore, Newton, and Judge Charles C. Ayres, Ottumwa.

Field Trips were announced for Sunday morning at 6 A.M. following breakfast at 5:30 in the Memorial Union Cafeteria. Leaders, Myra Willis, Seddie Cogswell, Lillian Serbousek, and John Faaborg.

George Crossley, Farley, reported on the North Central Audubon Council. It includes societies in the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio. Its purpose is to further the principles of the National Audubon Society. Letters of thanks, from Ruth Summy for aid in her studies of Mockingbirds' nesting and distribution, from Mr. and Mrs. Harold Whitmus for the gift, a letter of appreciation of the Union from Mrs. Lillian Stoner when she became a Life Member, and greetings from Myrle and Margaret Jones to the Union were read. Jack McLane, Burlington, reported on the meeting of the American Wildlife Federation, November 20, 1965, and suggested that the I.O.U. have a representative at future meetings if possible.

Adjournment.

#### SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 15

Sunday afternoon, following a rainy morning in the field, the members, cold and a little weary, gathered at the Izaak Walton Club House for a sumptuous luncheon of roast beef and chicken, salad, potatoes, green beans, rolls and butter, much hot coffee or milk, and pie; it was the kind of meal to send the conventioners homeward happy. Thanks again to the members of the Audubon Naturalists Society of Cedar Rapids!

Dr. Vane called the final business meeting to order. Robert Nickolson, member of the Executive Council, reported the records of the secretary-treasurer in order.

Mrs. J. B. Osher, Chr., read the following report of the Resolutions Committee. Be it resolved that the members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union express their deepest thanks as follows:

1. To the officers of the I.O.U. and to the members of the Executive Council for their leadership in guiding the Union through another very fine year. The officers are: Dr. Robert F. Vane, President; Mrs. Darrell M. Hanna, Vice-President; Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Secretary-Treasurer; and Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. The members of the Executive Council are: Judge Charles C. Ayres, Ottumwa; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Robert L. Nicholson, Sioux City; and Dean Roosa, Lehigh.
2. To the Audubon Naturalists Society of Cedar Rapids, as the Host group in charge of the Iowa City meeting. This group was responsible for the reception on Friday evening, for the rental of the Izaak Walton Club House, for the catering service, for the banquet flowers, for the souvenir menus, for various mimeographing expenses, and for many other services.
3. To Fred Kent for being the Chairman of all the local arrangements.
4. To Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Chairman of the Program Committee, who was in charge of the excellent program.

5. To the University of Iowa for making its building facilities available.
6. To Albert C. Berkowitz for generously printing our Convention programs.
7. To Dr. Walter Breckenridge, Director, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, for the banquet speech and movie, "Sand Country Wildlife".
8. To Fred Kent and Albert Berkowitz for the preparation and printing of the promotional folders.
9. For Mrs. Lester Haskell for printing the "Arrival and Departure" cards.
10. To all of those persons who so willingly took part in the presentation of papers, slides and movies at the Saturday meeting.
11. To the capable leaders of the various field trips.
12. To the Des Moines Register for printing colored pictures of birds of Iowa in the May 1 issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Pearl Osher, Chairman  
 Dorothy Grant  
 Woodward Brown

Moved by Albert Berkowitz that the report be adopted. Seconded by Dr. Peasley. Motion carried.

Dr. Vane reported that Dr. Milton Weller extended an invitation to the I.O.U. to hold its meeting in Ames at Iowa State University in May 1967. The date and place of the fall meeting, September 1966, will be decided by the Executive Council.

The Nominating Committee reported as follows: President, Myra Willis, Cedar Rapids; Vice-president, Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Ottumwa; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Myrie M. Burk, Waterloo; Editor, Peter C. Petersen, Jr.,avenport; Librarian, Dr. Martin L. Grant, Cedar Falls; Executive Council — Mrs. Russel Nicholson, Des Moines; Robert Nickolson, Sioux City; Fred W. Kent, Iowa City; Dr. Robert Vane, Cedar Rapids.

Moved by Albert Berkowitz that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot and the nominees be declared duly elected. Seconded by Mrs. Dwight Brooke. Motion carried.



NEW I.O.U. LIBRARIAN DR. GRANT

Photo by P. W. Kent

**Compilation of birds seen Sunday, May 15**

Heavy rain fell throughout most of the morning. Fred Pierce recalled only one convention bird hike when the weather was comparable to this morning. That was in the year 1931.

Dr. Martin Grant had charge of the compilation as follows: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Golden Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Total, 117 species.

**Registered Attendance**

AMES: Lorna Grabe, Marjorie Kline, David L. Trauger, Dr. Milton W. Weller. BETTENDORF: Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Price. BURLINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Fuller, Jack McLane, Audrey M. Niemann, Suzanne Warth, Bill Walker. CEDAR FALLS: Frances Crouter, Margaret Dorweiler, Juneau Goselke, Dr. and Mrs. Martin Grant, Linda Henningsen, Mrs. Orin Paine, Mrs. Charles Schwanke, Maxine Schwanke, Edith Wallace. CEDAR RAPIDS: Eleanore Fullerton, Dr. and Mrs. Karl Goellner, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Petranek, Lillian Serbousek, Dr. and Mrs. L. F. Vane, Robert Vane, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Myra Willis.

CLINTON: Dr. and Mrs. Ross C. King. COUNCIL BLUFFS: Jerry Phillips. DAVENPORT: Micheal Hager, Ralph Heuer, Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Mrs. Peter Petersen, Sr. DELTA: Lois Streigle. DES MOINES: Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Atherton, Albert C. Berkowitz, Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown, Woodward Brown, Mrs. J. A. Downing, Mrs. Joy Lynch, Mrs. Russel Nicholson, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley. DUNKERTON: Carole Cox. ESTHERVILLE: Mrs. J. B.



Osher. FAIRFIELD: Mrs. Viola Hayward, Margaret Herdliska, Jeff D. Swinebrook. FARLEY: Mr. and Mrs. George Crossley. GILMORE CITY: Mr. and Mrs. Sewall Van Alstine.

GRINNELL: Helen Stewart, Mildred Stewart. INDEPENDENCE: Ann Crowley, Florence L. Kane. IOWA CITY: Mrs. Charles Carlston, Seddie Cogswell, Marguerite Delle, Lee Eberly, Edna Flesner, Erwen Graber, Dr. R. L. Hulbary, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Kent, Mrs. Peter Laude, Marjorie Lyford, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Rohrbough. JEWELL: Mrs. Emil Stout. KEOKUK: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert M. Prince. KILLDUFF: Ann Moore. MARION: Mrs. Robert Liljedahl. MARSHALLTOWN: Dorothy Brunner, Jean Eige, Mr. and Mrs. Russel J. Prescott. MT. PLEASANT: Harrison F. Moore.

NASHUA: Sharyl Lynch. NEWTON: Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Moore. OSKALOOSA: Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton. OTTUMWA: Judge and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Hallberg. PLEASANTVILLE: Gladys B. Black. SPIRIT LAKE: Mrs. B. A. LaDoux. SIOUX CITY: Helen B. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Robert Nickolson. WATERLOO: Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Antoinette Camarata, Dave Hansen, Helen Hawkins, Margaret Nagel, Pearl Rader. WEBSTER CITY: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Crosby, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jensen. WELLMAN: Barbara Henderson. WEST CHESTER: Mrs. Oneita Fisher. WINTHROP: Fred Pierce. WHEATLAND: Esther Copp. WOOLSTOCK: Mrs. Glenn Schutt.

OUT-OF-STATE — ILLINOIS — ALEDO: Robert Trial. MACOMB: Joyce Weston. NAPEVILLE: Dr. Warren Keck. MINNESOTA—LA MOILLE: Pauline Wershofen. MINNEAPOLIS: Dr. and Mrs. Walter Breckenridge. NEBRASKA — LINCOLN: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Whitmus. WISNER: Mrs. Willeta Lueshen.

VISITORS: Dr. and Mrs. R. V. Drexler, Sara Drexler, Isabel Hoyman, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Pattee, Wilma Van Orsdol, of Cedar Rapids; Etta Berkowitz, of Des Moines; Dr. and Mrs. M. L. Huit, Mr. Schrimper, Walter Tietje, of Iowa City; Mr. and Mrs. Norval Flynn, of Waterloo.

Fellow Members of the I.O.U.:

I want to thank you for the honor you have bestowed upon me, and I assure you that I will endeavor not to disappoint you in my efforts to carry on the traditions of our organization. I am sure that I will have your co-operation, and I want you to know that your officers and executive council will be most happy to have your suggestions in matters which you consider of interest and importance to the society.



MYRA WILLIS  
Photo by F. W. Kent

Let us put forth our best efforts to increase our membership, and to make our interests in the preservation of the natural beauties of our land better known.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

Most sincerely,

Myra G. Willis, President

## FIELD REPORTS

March was warm for three weeks, and foliage was well advanced for the time of year, but on the 22nd near-blizzard conditions set in and weather remained cold through April. Plants and trees were at a standstill for weeks, and by early May conditions were such that the migration of passerines was generally considered late. The fact that there is a deadline for Field Reports may give an erroneous impression regarding some species which, up to now, have been scarce or have been seen not at all. The warbler migration appears to have been outstanding, while shorebirds have been generally very scarce. The most unusual report of the season comes from Mrs. Duane Williams of Jesup whose husband sighted a Cattle Egret on 26 March in a pasture with hogs at Rath's Hilltop Feeding Yards. This Iowa rarity was watched through scopes by Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Ronald Barnett and Mrs. Lloyd Hewitt.

**Grebes, Pelicans.** A Red-necked Grebe was at Harper's Ferry on 8 April, (FL). Very few Pied-bills have been seen, (JK), and the first seen was on the rather early date 6 April, (WY). On 5 and 6 May, 50 White Pelicans were seen at Brown's Slough by Jack Lovette, (HM), and a few were observed on 13 May, (WY).

**Hérons.** Quite a few Great Blue Herons have been sighted, including 7 in one flock, (JK), and on 3 April 7 were seen at a fish hatchery near Baxter following the sighting of 5 or 6 others while en route to Marshalltown with Albert Berkowitz. Common Egrets are mentioned four times: 7 March by Nick Osness at Vinton, (RH); 24 April, (JK); 1 at Sioux City, (DH); and 5 on 15 April, (FK). Yellow-crowned Night Herons continue to make spring appearances: 2 on 24 April on Black Hawk Creek by Nick Osness, (RH); an early one on 18 April, (HM); 1 on 17 May at Brower's Lake, (DH); and 2 have been seen repeatedly since 5 May at Flint Access in Polk Co. where they have probably nested for several years.

**Swans, Geese, Ducks.** Reports of Whistling Swans are from Russell Hays: 4 at Goose L. (Hamilton Co.), 27 March; 19 by Mrs. John Osness on 1 April; 9 in the Wapsi Valley, April 19; 3 at Sweet's Marsh, 23 April. Some comments on the waterfowl: from 22 to 27 March an unusual number of 2-3,000 Blue and Snow Geese at Lamoni, due doubtless to the blizzard in the west, (DG); 2 May, 2,000 geese of four species with the peak at Dunbar Slough on 27 March, (JF); best ever, migration was early and stayed at top level for a month, (RM); lots of geese, (JK); late in coming and late leaving, last large strings in mid-April. Some observers thought numbers greater than usual, but I wonder if they were just crowded into smaller areas, (DH). A Small Canada with Mallards noted on 15 May near Durant, (PP). 20 March was a big day at Sweet's Marsh with Canada, Blue and Snow Geese, thousands of Mallards, 500 Lesser Scaups, and smaller numbers of other ducks, (RH). On the Upper Iowa River 2 Wood Ducks on 3 March were early, (DP); at Wyth Park there were 40 on 16 April, (RH). Canvasbacks have been in largest numbers ever seen, and more Buffleheads this spring than in other years, (JF). A flock of 14 Ruddy Ducks was at Sweet's Marsh on 24 April. A Hooded Merganser on 6 March at Sweet's Marsh, (RH), and 2 on 20 March at Dunbar Slough, (JF). Little Wall Lake (Hamilton Co.) had 6 Red-breasted Mergansers on 28 March, (RM).

**Vultures, Hawks.** A Turkey Vulture in Dickinson Co. on 9 May was unusual, (BL). There was thought a good hawk migration with an extra good Broad-winged flight, (JF); 50-60 were seen on 19 April, (FK). Only the Red-tailed were common, and others generally down, (RM), and very few hawk reports, (DH). A good flight was watched on 3 April at Sweet's Marsh with a Peregrine seen, and another flight on 30 April included a Pigeon Hawk, (RH). Red-tailed, numbering 18, together with several other species were seen on 27 March, (DG); and more than 40 were seen on 2 and 3 April in the Decorah area by Glen Bloomfield, (RH). Red-shouldered: frequently seen near the Chariton River, (HM); 5 were seen in a 5-mile radius around Decorah from 25 February to 4 March, (DP); and, at Wyth Park, 1 on 16 April, 5 on 7 May increasing to 7 on the 14th, (RH). Swainson's were seen: 12 April, (DG); 13 April, nesting at Ames, (RK); 4 May, (JK); and 14 May by Eleanor Eifert, (RH). A Golden Eagle was seen 24 March at Brown's Slough, and a Bald Eagle on 9 and 11 March, (HM). Three adult Bald Eagles with a Red-tailed and a Sharp-shinned were at Sweet's Marsh on 20 March, (RH). Osprey reported at Black Hawk Lake on 2 May, (DH); and 10 May at Credit Island (Mrs. P.P.). The rare Prairie Falcon was well seen on 6 February at Goose Lake (Greene Co.) by Dave Bucklin and John Faaborg. Sparrow Hawks have been seen in numbers by several observers, principally in the eastern half of the state.

**Bobwhite, Pheasants, Partridges.** A fair number of last year's pleasing crop of Bobwhites wintered, (EB); and these are the first in two years, (RM). Good reports are received on Ring-necked Pheasants; an excellent carryover, (EB); came through in excellent shape, (JK); wintered well, more than in several springs, (DH); and, a good population in northwest Iowa, (RM). Partridge had a normal carryover, (EB).

**Shorebirds** There appears a great scarcity of this group, perhaps due to lack of habitat. They are definitely low, (RM); and, scarce, (HM). There have been almost none in Polk Co. A Common Gallinule was seen at Goose Lake (Hamilton) on 14 May, (RM). There were 1,000 plus Coots from 18 to 23 April, with smaller numbers for almost a month, (DG). The Killdeer has been a winter resident in Winneshiek Co., (DP), but is scarce this spring in Polk Co. Several reports of Golden Plover: 12 on a plowed field on 29 April, (DG); a small flock near Whiting on 7 May, (DH); 250 plus, near the Wright Co. line on 7 and 14 May, (RM); and 100 plus near Durant on 15 May, (PP). Woodcock were first seen on the early date 3 April, and 3 were banded; a nest was reported near Pleasant Valley, (PP). They have again been observed at Ames, (RK), and the evening flight song heard eight times on 9 April, (FK). Wilson's Snipe: again a winter resident in Winneshiek Co., (DP); seen on 12 February, (PL); and, has appeared oftener and in greater numbers than ever, (JK). Upland Plover appeared early on 17 April, (DG), and are back in usual numbers, (JK), but none reported in Polk Co. Willets: 7 seen on 25 April, (FK), and 1 at Decorah, (MK). Many Baird's Sandpipers were seen on 13 May, (EG). The Dowitcher was very early, appearing on 20 March, (JF). There is one report of the Marbled Godwit; on 1 May at Dunkerton by Mrs. John Osness et al., (RH). The Hudsonian was seen on 24 April at Dunbar Slough, (JF), and 15 May near Durant, (PP). An Avocet was at Sweet's Marsh on 22 April, (DW).

**Gulls, Terns, Doves, Cuckoos.** Franklin's Gulls, more common in the west, appeared in a huge flock on 12 May, (EG); 20 were at New Albin on 8 April, (FL), and 6 were on the Mississippi as early as 12 March, (PL). On 1 May there were 6 Bonaparte's Gulls at L & D 9, (MK), also an immature near Swan Lake, 21 May, (PP). There were 2 Common Terns at Sweet's



Marsh on 30 April, (RH), and a single seen twice near Des Moines in mid-May. Doves were called plentiful, (HM). The only references to cuckoos say none has been seen, and there have been but two reports, 1 Black-billed and 1 unidentified from Des Moines; still none by June at Davenport, (PP).

**Woodpeckers, Flycatchers.** Yellow-shafted Flickers; an over-supply, (RM). Red-shafted, 1 at Wyth Park on 7 May, (RH). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, in good numbers, (PP). With the exception of the Empidonax species few flycatchers are reported. All four Empidonax banded at Davenport 17 May (PP). Sioux City has had but 1 Western Kingbird report, and only a few Empidonax, (DH), and only 1 Wood Pewee has been found, (PL). It is feared the March blizzard was responsible for the decrease of probably 50% in Say's Phoebes, (EB).

**Larks, Swallows.** Horned Larks are few in Story and Winneshiek Cos., but more in between these areas as has been the case in the past few years, (DP), and, are in good numbers, (PP). Tree Swallows were early when 10 appeared on 24 March on Credit Island, (PP). A Purple Martin on 16 March was also early, (PL). A shortage of Martins may be due to the heavy mortality resulting from a tropical storm. A great flock of swallows was seen on 1 May at Sweet's Marsh, mostly Tree, but some Bank, Rough-winged, and Barn, (RH).

**Jays, Creepers, Wrens.** Blue Jays were seen in good numbers in migration, (PP), and one flock of 60 was seen in Des Moines on 7 May. Brown Creepers: seemingly one in every tree in Pilot Knob State Park in early May, (BS). A Winter Wren was seen at Wyth Park by Mrs. Hewitt on 7 May, a late date, (RH), and 2 are reported from Decorah, (MK). A Caroline Wren was found at Goose Lake (Hamilton Co.), (RM), and another on 10 May at Chariton, (HM). It is hoped additional reports may be received for these.

**Mimics, Thrushes.** Mockingbirds: one on 17 April was the first in several years, (JF); 3 separate sightings, (RM), 1 on 7 May, (PK); two nests found 31 May near Muscatine by Larry Dau, (PP), and 1 by Albert Berkowitz on the fittingly-named Mockingbird Hill road near Des Moines. Only a few reports of Catbirds, (DH). No one mentioned Robins, but they are numerous in Des Moines after a heavy fall migration. With the city-wide elm-bark beetle spraying announced for the fall it will be interesting to see how the population next spring compares. Hermit Thrushes were thought very common and present for an unusually long period with 3 on 1 May, (JF); 10 on 19 April, (FK); and extremely common in late April and early May, (BS). Swainson's, while more numerous than the other thrushes were perhaps fewer than last year, and there were also fewer Hermit and Gray-cheeked with no Bluebirds, (DH). Large numbers of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked, (JF). Gray-cheeked were unusually plentiful early, and were seen at least as late as 22 May, with Swainson's somewhat later in arriving but also numerous. Veeries have been unusually numerous, (WHB), 29 banded at Davenport, (PP), and 5 were seen on 8 May on Black Hawk Creek, (RH).

**Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes.** An early Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen on 29 March, (JF). Ruby-crowned: a tremendous migration, (BS). Water Pipits were thought common, (JF), but none was seen this spring, (DG). A Bohemian Waxwing was seen on 24 February by Mrs. Chester and Mrs. Pettyjohn, (RH). Cedar were thought to be more numerous than usual, (EB). Loggerhead Shrikes were considered to be up some, (EB), but none has been seen yet, (RM).

**Vireos.** This group is either unusually late, or will be very scarce this summer. Very late, and few seen, (JF). Solitary is the only one seen, but others may be delayed by weather, (JK). The Solitary has been relatively numerous, but the nesting species are very scarce. It is recalled the Red-eyed migration last fall was very light, (WHB). Two White-eyed were seen on 21 May, (FK).

**Warblers.** Most contributors thought there was at least one good wave: migration thought late, 17 species on 8 May, another large wave on 16th, (JF); a week early at Ames, large wave on 14 May, (DP); tremendous, (RM); good waves 8 May, 14 species and 79 Warblers banded, 17 May, 14 species and 33 warblers banded, (PP); good wave on 13th lasting until 16th, (PL); from 17th to 19th there were large numbers in Des Moines; 20th was the big warbler day with 18 species, (PK). On the contrary side: no wave, (DH); more Yellow, others slow in coming, (HM); very few species as of 14 May, (EB). Comments on individual species: Black-and-white, good numbers, (PP, RM). An early Worm-eating was heard on 25 April and later seen, (EG). Magnolia: extremely large numbers in Des Moines; 26 in two hours on 17 May, (JF). Myrtle: absence is puzzling, (JK); good flights early, (DH); the most common species, (MS). Blackburnian, Mrs. Velie saw 6 in one tree at Hudson, (RH). A Palm was the first in three years, (EB). An Ovenbird on 16 April was early, (HM). The rare Hooded was positively identified at Decorah, (MK). A Brewster's hybrid was seen on 20 May, (PK).

**Icterids.** A blackbird roost in North Davenport in late March had at its peak 60,000 Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds and Starlings. From 3-5,000 were still present on 13 May, (PP). Bobolinks: numbers are high, (RM). Yellow-headed Blackbirds are more numerous than in past years, (DH). Baltimore Orioles: still low, (RM), but 10 were seen in one tree in Cedar Falls, (RH). Rusty Blackbirds: on 20 March at Sweet's Marsh were the most ever seen, (RH). Brewer's Blackbirds were seen in numbers between 17 April and 2 May, (JK). Grackles appeared on 3 March in Winneshiek Co., (DP), and arrived a week earlier than last year, (PL).

**Fringillids.** Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, up, (PL). Purple Finches: very abundant in March, (DG); numerous reports from all over town, (DH); present until 15 May at least, (PL). Redpolls: seen in last week of February, (JF), and 15 were at Brown's Lake in February, (DH). Pine Siskins: a dozen seen on 9 May, (EG); in good numbers, (PP); 2 on 16 March, 24 on 15 May, and still present on 21st, (JF); very common in early April with 50 on the 8th, (PL), common all spring in Des Moines with as many as 20 at Mrs. Brooke's feeder in May. Goldfinches, never saw so many, (RM). Red Crossbill, 1 on 12 February, (PL). White-winged Crossbill: 1 seen on 5 March, (PP), and 2 on 6 March, (EB). Le Conte's Sparrow: several seen on 4 May, (EB), and many observed (JF). Lincoln's Sparrow, thought down sharply, (EB), down at Davenport with only 3 banded (PP). White-throated Sparrows: very common around the first of May, (PL), and, woods crawling with them, (BS). Lapland Longspurs: common the early part of spring with 350 on 6 February, (JF); hundreds during the blizzard on 4 March but gone in a day or two, (EB); 100 on 4 March, and 30 late ones 17-21 April. 28 April of last year there were 3 late ones also, (DG); several on 4 May were even later, (HM).

Contributors: Eldon Bryant, Akron; John Faaborg, Jefferson; Mrs. Edwin Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Fred W. Kent, Iowa City; Richard Knight, Ames; Mrs. Merlin Koenig, Castalia; Mrs. B. A.

La Doux, Spirit Lake; Fred Leshner, LaCrosse, Wisc.; Peter Lowther, Burlington; Howard McKinley, Russell; Ron Muilenburg, Webster City; Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport; Don Peterson, Ames and Decorah; Barton Sutter, Hanlontown; Myron Swenson, Ames; Mrs. Duane Williams, Jesup. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa, 50312.

CORRECTION — The Whistling Swans reported by Fred Leshner on p. 18 of the March issue were seen at Lock and Dam 7 rather than 9.

## GENERAL NOTES

**The Red-naped Sapsucker ? at Sioux City**—On April 14, 1966, I noticed two male sapsuckers in our old apple tree. Several of the larger branches have been punctured over the years and these birds were working on the old holes. Tiring of this they both dropped down to the ground. We have a semicircle of abalone shells around the front of the bird bath and usually pour some water in the upturned cups when we fill the bath. The two sapsuckers seemed very thirsty. As they were drinking, mirrored against the lovely iridescence of the shells, I thought what beautiful birds they were.

It was then that I really noticed the difference in the two males. The one was a typical Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, but the other one, equally gay in his spring outfit, had a red patch of feathers on the nape of the neck. The question is, was this bird a Red-naped Sapsucker of the western mountains or was he a mutation that is extremely rare in the Eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker? Forbush, in *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, reports that sapsuckers with this red-nape patch are very rarely reported in that area.

In recent years specimens of the Red-naped Sapsucker have been taken in western Kansas. Miss Doris Gates reports a sight record of the Red-naped Sapsucker at North Platte, Nebraska, in 1953, see *Nebraska Bird Review*, 21:38-39. The two sapsuckers were around for a few minutes and then were gone, so that further viewing was not possible and this sight record is given for what it is worth. WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, 3119 E. 2nd St., Sioux City.

**One Day Eagle Count on the Mississippi River — February 19 or 20, 1966** — Areas covered were as in former years, mostly the Mississippi River from the source to below St. Louis, also most rivers in Illinois and some refuges. Portions of Kentucky and one area in Nebraska were also covered. Some reports are by Pools and some by Locks and Dams.



LOCATION	ADULTS	IMMATURES	NOT AGED	TOTAL
Pools 4, 5, 5A and 6 .....	38	5	0	43
Pools 7 and 8 .....	2	0	0	2
Pool 9 .....	16	3	0	19
Pool 10 .....	6	0	0	6
Pool 11 .....	16	0	0	16
Savanna Ordnance Depot .....	122	13	2	137
Lock 12 and west .....	21	4	0	25
Lock 13 to Princeton, Iowa ....	18	1	0	19
Palisades State Park, Ill. ....	6	2	0	8
Albany, Ill. ....	6	1	1	8
Cordova, Ill. ....	4	0	0	4
Cordova to Lock 14 .....	16	3	0	19
Locks 14 and 15 .....	7	1	0	8
Lock 16 and Muscatine, Iowa ....	6	3	0	9
Lock 17 .....	12	2	0	14
New Boston, Ill. ....	27	0	0	27
Keithsburg, Ill. ....	9	0	0	9
Oquawka, Ill. ....	11	3	0	14
Lock 18 to Burlington, Iowa ....	29	1	0	30
Lock 19 .....	27	6	3	36
Lock 20 .....	5	0	0	5
Lock 21 and below .....	9	4	0	13
Lock 22 south .....	15	10	1	26
Lock 24 south .....	28	42	0	70
Lock 25 south to St. Louis ....	53	11	42	106
St. Louis .....	15	3	1	19
Sub-total .....	524	118	50	692
Percentage .....	.816	.184		
Illinois River .....	27	9	1	37
Crab Orchard Refuge .....	2	0	0	2
Chautauqua Refuge .....	11	3	0	14
Sub-total .....	564	130	51	745
Percentage .....	.816	.184		
Kentucky .....	19	23	7	49
Nebraska .....	3	3	0	6
Totals .....	586	156	58	800
Percentage .....	.788	.212		
1965 totals .....	580	191	97	868
Percentage .....	.754	.245		

Each year the National Audubon Society has a similar count, mostly flying up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Alexander Sprunt, IV, conducts this count. This flight count was taken January 17 and 18th. A comparison is most interesting. This is a quote from his letter, "I am amazed at the closeness of the two counts. We got 680, you got 692 total and the percentage of adults and immatures was within a few tenths of one percentage point both ways. Must indicate that both methods have either the same built in bias or that they are accurate, one or the other." His totals for the comparable portion of the count are adults 547, immatures 133. Percentages are 80.4% to 19.6%. ELTON FAWKS, 2309 5th Ave., Moline, Ill.



HYBRID DUCK

Photo by F. W. Kent

**A Hybrid Duck in Johnson County**—On April 16, 1966, with Seddie Cogswell and Lee Eberly, a trip was made to a wooded ridge in west end of the county to look for a woodcock nest where the birds had been seen several times, but without success. On the way back we stopped at a shallow marsh west of Swan Lake where there was a nice scattering of ducks — including teal, scaup, Ringneck, Mallard and Shovelers. At the far side of the pond among several other Shovelers was a very strange looking duck with white face and neck. We examined it for some time through the scope and got several color photos of it, even though rather far away for the best pictures. It had the size, shape, and behavior of the Shovelers with which it was feeding. But the breast instead of being white was the color and pattern of the Mallard, and the sides of the head and neck was white with a small dark spot behind the eye (see cut). It stayed with the group of Shovelers as if a part of that flock.

A search of the literature showed no hybrids like this one but we thought it might be a Shoveler-Mallard variation. A trip back the next day failed to find it again. F. W. KENT, 302 Richards, Iowa City.

**MacGillivray's Warbler at Sioux City**—Two white spots above and below the eyes gave me my clue to the small warbler walking on the rocks of a garden flower bed. The gray of the head and breast with the latter dappled with very black crape markings could only be one bird, the MacGillivray's Warbler. The time was early in the morning on May 16, 1966. This shy little bird gave me only a minute or two of its time and was gone. I quickly refilled the bird baths with fresh water and retired indoors, but the little warbler never returned.

While the MacGillivray's Warbler is a regular summer resident of extreme western South Dakota it has been reported in the eastern part of South Dakota only in recent years. These records have been obtained only by the dedicated and expert work of some of our birdbanders. Namely, the late Mrs. C. E. Peterson, of Madison, Minnesota; Lowry Elliott of Bird Haven, Milbank, South Dakota; and J. S. Findley of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Mrs. Peterson reported banding a MacGillivray's Warbler in the spring of 1956. Madison, Minnesota, is just ten miles inside the Minnesota border with South Dakota.

During the 1959 spring banding season both Mr. Elliott and Mr. Findley reported banding a single MacGillivray's Warbler from Milbank and Sioux Falls respectively. On May 26-27, 1962, Mrs. Nelda Holden of Brookings, South Dakota, attended the Spring Meeting of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union at Pierre, South Dakota, and was fortunate in netting and banding one MacGillivray's Warbler, all of which shows that this interesting western warbler does come eastwardly to Iowa and Minnesota in migration. WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, 3119 E. 2nd St., Sioux City.

**A Meat Loaf for the Birds**—To those who like humble fare, what is more tempting than a fine, well-browned meat loaf, decorated with a halo of spicy ketchup? That is what I was drooling over on a very cool early April Sunday, but it was not to be. The meat loaf came out of the oven, which is located in a bright red electric stove, and it smelled wonderful. Came time for the eating and the first bite was puzzling, but the second bite was a downright shock. Some over eager artisan of the cleaver had oiled his meat grinder and the over abundance of lubricating oil must have been mixed in with our particular package of meat loaf mix. In any event that fine looking meat loaf couldn't just be disposed of without a final experiment.

It was a cold day and the birds looked like they might eat just about anything. Birds probably can't taste much and knowing they were really hungry led to my cubing of a section of meat loaf and putting it on the suet post. The reaction was almost instant and a flock of Starlings, Grackles, House Sparrows, and Robins was soon fighting over the food. If the taste was bothering the birds it must have been minor, because I soon had to put out another helping.

A stranger now moved into the picture. He was a full plumaged Red-winged Blackbird and he decided the meaty lunch was just for him. He chased the other birds from the food until he was satisfied, and made his presence felt during the next two days. Several Harris' Sparrows worked the edges of the area and would now and then grab a piece of meat loaf and flee to the safety of the hedge to eat in peace. All was not lost however, for the meat loaf furnished food for the hungry birds for two days and the butcher cheerfully refunded my money for that not so tasty culinary delight, our meat loaf. WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, 3119 E. 2nd St., Sioux City.

**Masked Duck in Iowa, A Sight Record**—This detailed report of our findings on the Masked Duck mentioned in the Field Reports in the June 1965 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* (Vol. 35, p. 50) is long past due. When we arrived at Forney Lake March 14, 1965, at about one o'clock, there were hundreds of ducks there, mostly Mallards and Pintails, a few Common Mergansers, twelve Canada Geese came in an hour later, no Snos or Blues (we understand they came in late in the afternoon after we had gone) — and — one lonely little duck in the open water just in front of us.

My first thought was of a female Bufflehead because of its size and actions. On closer study I noticed there was NO white cheek spot and there was a LONG rather prominent HORIZONTAL white wing stripe (not the smaller white marking of the female Bufflehead). Ducks are my first love and I am quite familiar with the general markings of a great many species including scooters, old squaws, etc.



Harold and I watched the duck for over an hour. First we sat and discussed, as we watched through our binoculars, everything we could see about the duck — color, markings, actions, etc. This is a regular practice with us. Then, while Harold still watched, I turned to our set of books which we keep in the car at all times. Reading and checking, both Peterson and Pough, we made our identification. Pough has a good illustration of what we saw: The duck had a pointed tail, usually pointed upwards, which it wiggled in unusual fashion; it was shaped like a Ruddy Duck, had a bill the color of a Ruddy Duck; it dived and acted like a Ruddy Duck, but was not as large as a Ruddy. It had no white cheek spot; its head appeared blackish, it showed a dark body to the waterline (except for the long horizontal white stripe). However, when it rose in the water before making a dive, as it was doing constantly, it showed a white belly, not breast. This white was visible only when it rose upwards before making the dive. Because of the lack of real bright sunlight, the duck did not appear as reddish brown as the plate in our book shows. However, its size, shape, bill, tail, coloring and actions (and the white belly only) led us to our conclusions. Upon returning home we checked our many bird books. In Peter Scott's *Coloured Key to the Wildfowl of the World* we found the exact picture of the little duck we saw. Later we found it in Alex. Sprunt's (IV) book of *Gamebirds* and Peterson's *Guide to the Birds of Texas*. Peterson and Pough, et al, say it is a wanderer, having been found in Wisconsin, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Vermont. When at St. Mark's Refuge near Tallahassee in 1963 we looked for it as we were told it had been seen there. It was reported from West Palm Beach on their 1963 Christmas count. It is casual in lower Texas. MRS. HAROLD V. WHITMUS, 5800 Saylor St., Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Grackle Notes**—On April 30, a cold (30 to 40 degrees) but sunny day, I was birding in northern Worth County. While driving through Northwood, I noticed, in passing, a Common Grackle chase an Eastern Gray Squirrel across a lawn. In curiosity I drove around the block to see if the activity had continued. I parked the car approximately 30 feet from the scene of action and there sat fascinated for 15 minutes by an exciting display of agonistic behavior. Apparently the grackle had "freed" the squirrel in a holeless tree. The grackle was joined by another of its species, and the two of them harassed the squirrel to near exhaustion. As the squirrel scampered desperately about the tree, the grackles time after time attacked the squirrel in a manner suggestive of fighter planes. Several times the grackles actually struck the squirrel and bits of fur flew through the air. The only respite for the squirrel came when it stretched out and "froze" against the tree trunk. For a short time the grackles seemed unable to find the squirrel, and it was able to rest, its sides heaving, until one of the grackles recognized it against the trunk and the harassment was resumed. Finally during one of the squirrel's "freezing" periods, one of the grackles flew off, and the squirrel was then able to escape to safety.

The list of food eaten by the Common Grackle is long, including items as varied as insects and young birds. Youngworth in Iowa has observed this species consuming acorns; Strnad in Minnesota has watched grackles catch and eat minnows. On April 28 I was walking along a dirt road on the northern border of Rice Lake. I noticed ahead of me in the road three grackles feeding on a large object. As I approached, the birds flew, and I was able to identify the object on which they had been feeding as a Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, an item I have never seen listed as grackle fare. BARTON SUTTER, Box 17, Hanlontown.

**A Twist in Turnstone Feeding Tactics**—On the evening of May 20 I decided to make a quick trip to Elk Creek Marsh to check on shorebird movements. When I arrived at Segment A, I was shocked by the large number of shorebirds on the area. Sand flats and mud bars, previously under water, had been exposed by draw-downs on the water level; the newly exposed areas were crawling with shorebirds. Making a quick count, I tallied nearly 30 Ruddy Turnstones scattered along the beaches — an almost unbelievable aggregate number of a species which is normally found individually or in very small flocks.

After making the quick census, I focused my attention on the nearest individual. It was feeding in the manner from which its name is derived, flinging pebbles in all directions in search of the worms, small mollusks, and other such forms of shore life that are the turnstone's accepted fare. Suddenly the turnstone dashed to the shallow water and, thrusting with its bill into the water in much the manner of a heron, came up with a minnow. The bird tossed the minnow on the sand and made repeated stabs at the small fish which apparently was too much for the "Calico-back" to handle. Several times the bird picked the minnow up in its bill and carried it a short distance up the beach before dropping it to the sand and again stabbing at the small fish. Finally the "frustrated" turnstone flew up the beach and reverted to its normal and more successful feeding methods.

I hurried down to the beach where the minnow lay in a small pool of water. To my amazement the minnow was not yet dead, although it was swimming very weakly and was on its back in the position of a dying fish. The fish was silvery sided and measured two inches in length.

Although the diet of the Ruddy Turnstone is known to include items as unseemly as grasshoppers, I have never seen fish included in the food list of this species, nor have I encountered mention of the heron type of feeding. Judging from the unsuccessful attempts of this turnstone-turned-fisherman, however, it appears that this species had best restrict its feeding methods to that of its namesake. BARTON SUTTER, Box 17, Hanlontown.

**Unusual Red-tailed Hawk Nest**—Some species are quick to take advantage of man-made structures for solid nesting supports, but the Red-tailed Hawk is not normally in this group. After searching unsuccessfully in an oak woods in mid-May for the nest of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, the authors assumed the nest had been destroyed or the birds were non-breeders. The woods are adjacent to the WOC transmission towers just east of Davenport and Bettendorf on the bluff of the Mississippi River. Interest in locating the nest was revived when Lewis Blevins passed on the information that it was on one of the towers and contained young. The first opportunity to check again came on July 9, 1966. This would seem almost two months late, but investigation showed the nest to be located on the lowest platform of the radio transmission tower, about 115 feet from the ground. The station personnel kindly cut power, allowing Norman Ward to climb the ladder. The young were three to four weeks old, just sheathing their primaries. The nest was more like a lining since the platform provided the chief base material.

A young hawk, captured by hand at the Davenport Public Museum, although able to fly, was banded and released at the tower on June 25, 1963. No band could be seen on either adult, but this bird could be one of the parents. PETER PETERSEN, Jr., 2736 E. High St., Davenport and NORMAN WARD, JR., 3212 Candlewick Drive, Bettendorf.

**A Laggard Solitary Vireo**—The date was June 15, 1966. Two of the observers were John and Wiletta Lueshen of Wisner, Nebraska. The bird was a Solitary Vireo. I had been hearing this vireo sing all morning about the place and just as the Lueshens drove up he was singing overhead. It didn't take long to spot the bird again and watch it as it sang and fed in the trees.

I have found the Solitary Vireo a regular migrant here at Sioux City over the years with more spring migration dates, but more numerous vireos in the fall. The fall of 1965 was a good year for this vireo, with the first one sighted on September 14 and then again on the 22nd and 23rd. The heavy flight started on the 26th when five were seen and again on both the 27th and 28th when fifteen were seen each day.

The average spring arrival date is about May 10th and the average spring departure date is about May 21st. That is why on June 14th when I heard this song similar to that of the Red-eyed Vireo, but with the rich whistled warble thrown in, which the Red-eyed Vireo does not give, that I was a bit puzzled until I actually identified the bird. While we partook of fine home grown strawberries furnished by the Lueshens at our picnic table, the lonesome vireo continued to sing for us. The next morning I heard this Solitary Vireo for a few minutes and then he was gone. He probably decided it was time to go north to the ancestral nesting grounds in northern Minnesota or the far off Turtle Mountains of North Dakota. WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, 3119 E. 2nd St., Sioux City.

**Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Plymouth County**—On May 16, 1966, while planting corn, I saw a flock of about fifteen plover like birds fly into the field to feed. They were obviously not Golden Plovers and were too small for Upland Plovers. They would fly very rapidly a few feet from the ground and wheel and often light very near their original feeding spot. They were very nervous and hard to approach so I exchanged my tractor for the pickup truck and by driving around managed to approach to within about one hundred yards. I could see nondescript buffy birds with definitely yellowish legs with 7x50 binoculars. The legs were the only outstanding field mark. My Field Guide indicated they had to be the rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper. I had seen a small flock of similar birds a day earlier but was unable to approach them but suppose them to be the same species. I was happy their flyway crossed my farm this year as a new bird is always pleasant to find. ELDON BRYANT, Route 1, Akron.

**An Early Grasshopper Sparrow Hatch**—I saw the first Grasshopper Sparrows of the year 1966 on May 4 while working in a stubble field on my farm. They seemed to arrive in a small wave as I saw several that day. This was about normal as to arrival date. The earliest arrival date I have recorded is May 1, 1965. The unusual happening of the day was that I flushed a Grasshopper Sparrow which performed a very creditable broken wing act to apparently try to draw me from a nest. I have watched the progress of several of their nests and have never seen the flushed female do anything but fly away, so I followed the bird a short distance and then ignored her thinking she might have been slightly injured in migration.

On May 20, while working in the same area I flushed an immature Grasshopper Sparrow which had left the nest only recently. This little fellow could fly only a few yards but try as I might I couldn't catch it. It would drop into the grass of the waterway and hide until I flushed it again. The light stripe over the head was clearly visible as the bird flew away from me so I am quite sure it had to be this species. This would indicate that at least a few Grasshopper Sparrows had arrived quite early, mated, nested, and fledged their young at what would be an unusually early date, at least as far as my records indicate. ELDON BRYANT, Route 1, Akron.



## BOOK REVIEWS

**Birds of Colorado**—Alfred M. Bailey and Robert J. Niedrach—Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver—124 color plates, over 400 photographs—1965—cloth—2 volumes, \$35.00.

The long awaited addition to the library of state ornithological works and a set which ranks right up with the works on birds of Minnesota, Massachusetts, and California in every way. It is doubtless the finest publication on the avifauna of a state to appear in at least thirty years. A collection of state bird books cannot be complete without this set.

The books are large, 9" x 12", and very well produced. The color plates are probably the outstanding feature. Twenty-three artists, including Peterson, Singer, Jaques, and Eckelberry, provided these plates especially for this publication. In many cases the artists have worked with the families they do quite well. The reproduction of the plates is high quality in almost every instance. Very few plates can be noted as being perhaps a bit "off", but the Solitary Vireo, several warblers, the orioles, and some sparrows do fall into this category. Two relatively new artists, at least to this reviewer, were very impressive — Donald L. Malick and D. M. Henry. As would be expected a wide variety of artistic representation is shown. Hochbaum's plates of downy young waterfowl are of note as these plumages are seldom included in a work of this nature.

The text and illustrations cover four hundred thirty-nine species. The species accounts include field characteristics, range in the state and bordering states, status in Colorado, specific nesting data and a collection of remarks pertaining to various facts of the life history. The latter section varies in length and somewhat in style, and a few obvious errors are to be found. Often this section includes excerpts from field notes which provide source material rarely seen in such a publication. This section, except for the field notes, is in larger type face and is what an amateur would be likely to read for pure enjoyment, with the other text information falling into the area of reference material. The photographs are the work of thirty-six photographers, the authors included. They are fine examples, often showing unusual views. A few do appear to be perhaps mounted birds, but are still fine examples of the species they depict.

The work begins with a check-list, grouping the taxonomic groups with the page of the species account included. A full page of drawings illustrates the topography of a bird and types of tails. The authors, both very experienced field men with over forty years of field work in Colorado under their belts, proceed to define the scope of the work and briefly outline the nomenclature. The introduction includes discussions of the geographic distribution of birds, migration and its hazards, orientation, pesticides, arrival, incubation, nesting success, and longevity. The state of Colorado is covered in terms of its history, ornithological work, topography, rivers, climate, life zones (well illustrated with photographs), typical associations between terrain, birds and vegetation, common plants, days afield, and migration. A recent spring count gives an idea of relative numerical abundance of migrants.

Many Iowans will recall some of the excellent I.O.U. Convention banquet programs and screen tours presented by Dr. Bailey, a native of Iowa and graduate of the State University of Iowa. He and Robert Niedrach have provided about as complete a record of the avifauna of a state as has

yet appeared. It fills the niche of a beautiful book of illustrations, an account of the bird life, and a guide to ornithological field work for Colorado. It would be a welcome addition to any library on birds. ed.

**National Parks of the West**—the Editors of Sunset Books—Lane Magazine and Book Co., Menlo Park, California—320 p. 266 photographs, many in color, also maps and diagrams—1965—\$11.75.

In words and pictures this beautiful volume presents twenty-one of our Western National Parks. It provides answers to many questions people ask about our western parks on such topics as geology, natural history, mountaineering, Indian history and park history, as well as listing officials of our National Park Service.

Each one of the twenty-one western parks has a chapter devoted to it. There is a 29 page section following the park chapters on park facts. This is a digest of information which includes access routes, traveler's guide, chronology of events, park statistics, Western National Monuments, National Forests, park life zones, bibliography and index. This is not a bird book but the life zones of the park are highlighted and birds are noted when they are a special attraction.

The text material is well written and very interesting. But, the story this book tells is most dramatically presented by the photographs. This reviewer has not enough superlatives to describe the fantastically beautiful visual message this book conveys. The photography and reproduction of these photographs is excellent. One would have to search a long time to find another book with as breath taking a group of pictures, even at twice the price. This book should be in all public and school libraries. It is an excellent resource book for earth science. People who admire fine books will surely want this volume. Mary Lou Petersen

**The Secret Islands, An Exploration**—Franklin Russell—W. W. Norton Co., New York—238 p. with 23 photographs—1965—cloth—\$5.95.

The author, who was born in New Zealand, has a strange fascination for islands which he terms islomania after Lawrence Durrell. This story is an account of his impressions from a summer trip to several islands in northeastern North America. The islands he visited were Hay, Kent, Bonaventure, Funk, Great, Green, Gull and Newfoundland. The impressions cover the people inhabiting the area, the topography, the climate and the natural history, primarily the bird life. The account of the journey is painted in a vivid word picture which will absorb the interest of anyone who enjoys the outdoors. Having visited gull nesting islands on a regular basis for several years this reviewer shares the author's enthusiasm for islands and can perhaps better appreciate his impressions. Any reader would find himself drawn up in the story. ed.

**North East Iowa Hills**—Jackson Turner—printed by the author, 416 N. Page, Monona, Iowa—88 p. with many photographs—1965—paperbound—\$1.25 and 25c postage.

A book not on the subject of birds, but a pictorial guide to one of the most inviting ornithological areas in Iowa. It covers Allamakee and Clayton counties, including maps, word sketches of towns, places, parks, etc.: with a stress on camping facilities. Any birder planning to investigate this area would find it not only useful but very informative on historical and general interest topics. It can be obtained directly from the author. ed.

**The World of the Great Horned Owl**—G. Ronald Austing and John B. Holt, Jr.—J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia—158 p., many photographs by the authors—1966—\$4.95.

A sequel to Austings' **World of the Red-tailed Hawk** which follows the same pattern and is an equally fine job. The authors begin with a general discussion of the bird and its habits including the relationship with other owls. They then trace the yearly activities, including some very interesting personal anecdotes of banding experiences. Relationships with man, sub-species and a bibliography are also included.

Birders who are especially intrigued by the birds of prey will find this book of special interest. The authors' thorough understanding of this species is brought out vividly in both text and photographs. ed.

**Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification**—Chandler Robbins, Bertel Bruun, Herbert Zim—Golden Press, New York—340 p., 2,000 color illustrations by Author Singer—1966—paperback \$2.95, hardcover \$4.95.

A new field guide which must rank at least as a necessary supplement to the Peterson guides. It does more in many areas, nearly as much in others. A major improvement is the inclusion of all North American species under one cover. Range maps are included for most species, making it very easy to note species to be expected in your area. Songs of many species are represented by sonagrams, or audiospectrograms, visual reproductions made by a sound spectograph. They show the time and pitch of the song and indicate volume. One can listen to recordings at home while looking at them in the guide to help learn the songs. Another innovation shows silhouettes in comparison to those of similar species illustrated elsewhere. Besides the regular species, illustrations grouping plumages, such as immature gulls and fall warblers, appear together for easy comparison. Lengths given are for live birds held in a natural field position, not museum skins well flattened and often stretched. The printing is high quality and colors seem quite accurate.

Without widespread field use and acceptance it is hard to say that this will become the number one field guide but in this reviewer's opinion it lays a strong claim to that position. Space has been kept to a minimum, text and picture are together, all postures shown are together, all in all it does everything and does it well. Avid field students will not go wrong obtaining a copy. Any library, especially a school library, wishing one bird book covering North American birds has finally a book available. ed.

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Myrle L. Jones, now retired from the Iowa Conservation Commission, is enjoying his retirement on his seventeen acres in the so-called mountains of Arkansas near the town of Dover.

Myrle has been a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union since 1931 and his wife Margaret has been a member since 1941. In a letter to his fellow birders, Myrle makes his readers envious when they read about all the Iowa birds that spend the winter with him. Those of us who received this letter would like to share it with all the readers of **Iowa Bird Life**.

Dover, Arkansas

January 11, 1966

Dear Birders:

Yesterday was such a beautiful day here it made me feel ten years younger. Today is cloudy so I'll probably gain back a few years. Anyway I got a lot done outdoors yesterday. This 50 and 60 degree weather is really easy to take.

I guess "once a garbage man, always . . ." etc. The bum who rented the place here last year was really what the local people call him — a tramp. They made our beautiful spring fed stream look like a dump, so Margaret and I spent Sunday p.m. picking trash out of what they call here "the branch." We finally located the Dover dump so are hauling out.

For the sake of variety I also had a few bird nets in operation. I've been afraid to put up my nets in the best locations for fear I'd get too many birds tangled up in the net at a time. They go in flocks as soon as Margaret goes off to school, usually early when it's a bit cool both for the birds and for me working with naked fingers to untangle them.

I had quite a net full yesterday morning just as she left, among them a colorful Pine Warbler. I banded two in October, two in January and one this morning before breakfast. Pine Warblers like the hickory nuts I crack for them. Every day a Goldfinch and a Carolina Wren come and eat the nuts, too.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker just now is eating our suet. We could get along without him! I banded him, treating him rough, but he didn't take the hint. I think I'll deport him. I had to put Band-aids on our little walnut tree by the bird bath where he spent so much time drilling holes.

I almost got the neighbor's cow in a net yesterday as I moved it over behind a fence where the bluebirds play around a nesting box. The bluebirds are very difficult to catch. They do not rise to any bait that I can discover and they don't usually fly fast enough to get caught in a net most of the time. I steal "possum berry" branches from along the byways and nature fake them all around in the bushes and along the fences. The bluebirds eat a few each day. This morning I rushed them as they were eating the "possum berries" near the bluebird box. It worked. I got one colorful male.

Just now watching a Pine Warbler in my trap. I don't have a pull string on the trap, so will have to let him eat in peace. Seems strange to have warblers at the feeding shelf in winter. It's also hard to get used to Field Sparrows at the feeding shelf and no Tree Sparrows. We have three Carolina Chickadees every day and they are getting quite tame but will never take the place of the friendly little Black-caps of Iowa.

I got my first view of a Pileated Woodpecker in this area Sunday. I tried to get Margaret zeroed in on it as it flew right over her, but she couldn't see me through the double window as I yelled and pointed wildly

overhead. She heard me but thought I was in great pain, I guess. Anyway she missed seeing it and it was very quiet. We have frequently heard them near but hadn't seen one before. Yesterday was a beautiful sunny day, but I guess today will be different. What I like as much as anything is the usual lack of wind. I lived in northwest Iowa for eighteen years and have had enough wind to last me.

Well, I set my flat trap in operation this morning and see I have a couple of White-throats. Wrong — one Lincoln Sparrow and one White-throat.

Even though I've banded seven Cardinals recently I see two beautiful males at the nearest feeding shelf wearing no bands. The back yard just seems to be squirming with Cardinals and White-throats. A pair of towhees also are among them. They have avoided my nets so far and I have only one feeding shelf trap in operation. We have one House Sparrow! Isn't that wonderful? I predict that he is not long for this world! The jays come at times but not enough to bother.

Just got a chickadee. Even though he is an inch shorter than the Black-cap, he seems to have equal bite power. Those tiny pinches really make one say "uncle." Just chased a couple of Goldfinches into the "blue-bird net." One was already in the other net.

We really have a mixed habitat here. Just east of the house on higher ground is a rocky area covered with tall wild grasses and a few trees that have been cut over for pulpwood a few years ago. Cactus also appears in places. Beyond the prairie in all directions is heavy timber — either mixed as to the south across the road and beyond the spring or large and small pine trees to the east. Behind the house is this jungle, a tangle of small cedars, plum thickets, blackberries, and the green brier in dense patches — horrible for humans but fine for bird cover. It all borders what we thought was our number one spring. All summer it was a dry wash, so this fall the birds went for our bird baths in great shape. They still use them, but several mornings we have had to remove the ice and put in warm water. So far they haven't frozen over during the day but no doubt will soon. Our daytime temperatures have been between 40 and 65 degrees. The recent rains have filled our beautiful little rocky branch and now the birds have plenty of water, but in the meantime they respond to feeding.

Noon — the sun and the wind came out together and stopped my netting so I went out fence stealing. I stole it from my boundary fence along the road where the road grade is undercutting my fence. The boys with the hound dogs always cut holes through the woven wire fences anyway if it interferes with their dogs. One place it was cut; another place a big rock pulled under it, all in only sixty feet of fence. I needed a fence around my trapping and feeding area to keep dogs off my traps and feeders, also to keep out neighbor's cows and horses. I had a herd of horses in here awhile back. A horse stepping on a sheet metal bird bath does nothing to improve it. Birds still at the feeders in the strangest combinations, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the suet and a Carolina Wren in the nearby "trap feeder."

Next morning — My beautiful banded bluebird drinking at the bath pan is joined by that repulsive sapsucker. The Carolina Wrens are forever sneaking around my shop and since the door stands open a lot I often find one trying to get out the window when I make an unexpected entrance. We enjoy the Carolina Wrens a lot. We may get tired of them in the spring as they are rather loud and will be so close to the house.

Evening Edition — It was such a good day to be out. I just had to ex-

plore our spring-fed stream. It seems to defy gravity, seeming to arise on top of our mountain. (In Iowa they would be called hills or bluffs, but here you must speak of them as mountains.) As near as I can tell it is sort of an upland swamp. Anyway I hiked up it by wearing rubber boots. In places it was more than knee deep. The first one hundred feet beyond our boundary fence it was flowing a good stream. The next fifty feet was dry. It apparently went underground. Then the next quarter mile or so was flowing like a little mountain stream over rocks, never any mud. Growing quite dense along the banks and as far as one can see through the trees are pines, cedars, hickories, and elms as well as a lot of trees I can't identify. The water is clear, of course, and one is impressed by its mountain-like beauty and quiet. I saw a few birds at the spring at the source of the "branch." Otherwise no birds or animals in evidence. They say there are plenty of deer, and wild boars are hunted in this county on private property run by an Iowan, but I didn't see even a squirrel. Hickory nuts were abundant and apparently not being eaten by anything. I don't understand that. The nuts are better than the bittersnuts of Iowa, but not sweet like the shagbark nuts we enjoy in Iowa or the Chariton River or the Missouri hickory nuts. The birds love them, though, when we crack them. They are so easy to get. We even have two hickory trees in our yard. Nuts lying all over, but no squirrels around — and me an old squirrel hunter!

I got a hunting license awhile back hoping to get a few squirrels and rabbits. Then I discovered it entitles me to two deer also. My legs are a little wobbly yet for strenuous hiking and hunting, but my endurance is about up to my 1961 level. I never did get to feeling tops while at Bellevue, Iowa.

The doctors and drug stores thrive on my patronage, but if I can keep feeling as well as I do now we will enjoy a lot of birding next spring. Too bad that Margaret got tied down to a job, but she almost got drafted. That Green Stuff that does not grow on trees looked pretty good, too. She even got paid for the first two weeks in September and wasn't even here.

Next Morning — Well, this is the tomorrow I was looking for yesterday. Couldn't get it all done yesterday. I'm seeing red this morning. Six male Cardinals are at the feeders all at once. They seem to be out of corn so I just put some out, cracked corn, oats, and millet. As soon as I came in, they came flocking out of the jungle. Just now a beautiful Purple Finch, first I have seen around here, at the bath a dozen feet from my window.

That wind I said we seldom have is spoiling my bird netting this morning, but I did get a Field Sparrow, a Junco, and a repeat Song Sparrow. I thought I had only one Song Sparrow around here but just now saw two unbanded ones on the corn feeding spot. I think the rabbits clean up every particle of corn at night, but they hide during the day. I'll get one or two yet!

Just now counting noses to see if there are enough female Cardinals to go around. I count only three. A little color in the pull string trap seemed to be a bit small for a female Cardinal and turned out to be that beautiful Purple Finch. I couldn't pass up a chance like that so lowered the boom on him, and now you can look for a Purple Finch with an "Arky" accent and a Jones band.

How can I concentrate and watch out my window and see all at once, Purple Finches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Pine Warblers, Rufous-sided Towhees, and all the other regular boarders?

As ever,

Myrle and Margaret Jones